



[Home](#) › [Statistics](#) › [Labour](#) › [Employment and unemployment](#)
› [Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia](#) › February 2023

✓ Latest release

Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia

Labour participation potential, underemployment and job attachment, job search experience, labour mobility, hours worked, industry and occupation.

Reference period February 2023

Released 30/06/2023

On this page

[Key statistics](#)

[Data downloads](#)

[Post release changes](#)

[Methodology](#)

[Media releases](#)

Key statistics

During the year ending February 2023:

- 1.8 million people were not working but wanted to work (potential workers).
- Job mobility remained at 9.5% for a second year in a row, the highest rate in a decade.
- The annual retrenchment rate was 1.4%, the lowest annual rate on record (since 1972).

Topics

Statistics from the Participation, Job Search and Mobility (PJSM) survey are published in three topic-based releases.

- [Potential workers \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/potential-workers/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/potential-workers/latest-release)
- [Job mobility \(/statistics/labour/jobs/job-mobility/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/jobs/job-mobility/latest-release)
- [Underemployed workers \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/underemployed-workers/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/underemployed-workers/latest-release)

Microdata and Tablebuilder

PJSM microdata for 2015 to 2023 is now available in ABS DataLab, released as a supplementary file for the Longitudinal Labour Force (LLFS) microdata. All existing users of the LLFS microdata will automatically get access to the additional file and new users can apply for access to both files.


A detailed data item list for the PJSM microdata is available in [Microdata and TableBuilder: Participation, Job Search and Mobility \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia)

The release of PJSM data into TableBuilder has been delayed until later in the year.

Data downloads

How to use tables

1. Select a state or territory
2. The estimates shown in the table are for the most recent time period (February 2023)
3. The corresponding Time Series ID links to series of annual estimates for earlier time periods (2015 to 2022)

<div>  <div> Time Series Workbook 6228.0 Potential workers </div> </div>						
<div> Table 1. Potential workers and discouraged job seekers Released at 11:30 am (Canberra time) Fri 29 Apr 2022 Table 1.2 - Potential workers and discouraged job seekers by state and territory, February 2021 </div>						
<div> <div> Select a state or territory: <div>Australian Capital Territory</div> </div> <div> Time Series IDs </div> </div>						
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Expanded labour force status						
Civilian population	342.8	165.7	177.1	A1251733308	A125184562F	A125178946C
Employed	235.6	118.8	116.9	A125173294T	A125184526W	A125178910A
Underemployed (expanded definition)	21.0	11.7	9.3	A125173334X	A125184566R	A125178950V
Underemployed (headline definition)	12.5	6.7	5.8	A125173338J	A125184570F	A125178954C
Potential workers	30.3	11.8	18.5	A125173298A	A125184530L	A125178914K
Potential workers with job attachment (away from work or waiting to start)	5.4	2.7	2.7	A125173302F	A125184534W	A125178918V
Had a job to go to and available within 4 weeks	4.6	2.7	2.0	A125173322B	A125184554F	A125178928C
Had a job to go to and available last week (a sub-group of unemployed)	2.7	1.8	0.9	A125173282J	A125184514L	A125178898W
Had a job to go to and available within 4 weeks (but not last week)	1.9	0.9	1.1	A125173342X	A125184574R	A125178958L
Had a job to go to and not available within 4 weeks	0.8	0.0	0.8	A125173326X	A125184558R	A125178942V
Potential workers without job attachment	25.0	9.2	15.8	A125173354J	A125184586X	A125178970C
Wanted to work, actively looking and available within 4 weeks	7.9	3.5	4.5	A125173286T	A125184511V	A125178902A
Wanted to work, actively looking and available last week (a sub-group of unemployed)	7.5	3.2	4.3	A125173262X	A125184511V	A125178878L
Wanted to work, actively looking and available within 4 weeks (but not last week)	0.4	0.3	0.2	A125173274J	A125184511V	A125178890C
Wanted to work, actively looking and not available within 4 weeks	0.0	0.0	0.0	A125173306R	A125184538F	A125178922K
Wanted to work, available within 4 weeks but not actively looking	14.7	5.2	9.5	A125173278T	A125184510C	A125178894L
Discouraged job seekers - available within 4 weeks but discouraged from actively looking	1.6	0.0	1.6	A125173310F	A125184542W	A125178926V
Other job seekers - available within 4 weeks but not actively looking for other reasons	13.0	4.6	8.4	A125173314B	A125184546F	A125178930K
Wanted to work, not available within 4 weeks and not actively looking	2.4	0.5	1.9	A125173358T	A125184590R	A125178974L
Not potential workers	76.8	35.1	41.7	A125173266J	A125184498X	A125178882C
Did not want to work	68.9	32.7	36.3	A125173346J	A125184578X	A125178962C
Permanently unable to work	7.9	2.5	5.4	A125173350X	A125184582R	A125178966L

Potential workers

↓ Download all (16.11 MB)

Table 1. Potential workers and discouraged job seekers

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[447.21 KB]

Table 2. Characteristics of discouraged job seekers and other potential workers

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[3.72 MB]

Table 3. Duration since last job and main activity of discouraged job seekers and other potential workers

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[3.54 MB]

Table 4. Main reason for not actively looking for work of persons who wanted to work and were available

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[483.86 KB]

Table 4a. Reasons did not actively look for work

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[1.54 MB]

Table 5. Job search experience of unemployed persons

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[973 KB]

Table 6. Characteristics of successful and unsuccessful job search experience (updated 5 July 2023)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[1.14 MB]

Table 7. Number of job offers while looking for work

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[2.5 MB]

Table 8. Main difficulty and duration of job search of unemployed persons

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[2.69 MB]

Table 9. Main difficulty in finding work by age of unemployed persons

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[1.83 MB]

Relative standard errors, Tables 1 to 9

↓ [Download ZIP](#)

[13.15 MB]

Job mobility

↓ [Download all \(10.54 MB\)](#)

Table 1. Labour mobility, retrenchments and duration of employment

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[1.07 MB]

Table 2. Retrenchments and other reasons for ceasing a job last year

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[2.71 MB]

Table 3. Changes in employment characteristics of people employed last year

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[923.4 KB]

Table 4. Separations and other changes in employment of people employed last year by industry

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[2.37 MB]

Table 5. Engagements and other changes in employment of people employed last year by industry

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[2.35 MB]

Table 6. Separations and other changes in employment of people employed last year by occupation

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[1.61 MB]

Table 7. Engagements and other changes in employment of people employed last year by occupation

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[1.57 MB]

Relative standard errors, Tables 1 to 7

[↓ Download ZIP](#)
[9.21 MB]

Underemployed workers

[↓ Download all \(6.51 MB\)](#)

Table 1. Cyclical and structural underemployment of full-time and part-time workers

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[1.29 MB]

Table 2. Extended measures of underutilisation

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[211.49 KB]

Table 3. Underemployment status of full-time and part-time workers

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[214.03 KB]

Table 4. Part-time workers who prefer more hours

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[280.79 KB]

Table 5. Characteristics of part-time workers who prefer more hours

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[995.54 KB]

Table 6. Duration of insufficient hours of underemployed part-time workers

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[2.2 MB]

Table 7. Number of extra weekly hours preferred by underemployed part-time workers (updated 5 July 2023)

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[1.93 MB]

Table 8. Main difficulty in finding more work of underemployed part-time workers

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[593.87 KB]

Relative standard errors, Tables 2 to 8

[↓ Download ZIP](#)
[4.41 MB]

Microdata and TableBuilder

[↓ Download all \(1.11 MB\)](#)

Table 1. Populations

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[545.14 KB]

Relative standard errors, Table 1

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[385.85 KB]

Participation, Job Search and Mobility data item list, 2015 to 2023

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[660.24 KB]

Post release changes

5 July 2023:

- References to "jobactive Australia" were replaced with "Workforce Australia" in the data item "All steps taken to find work or more hours in the last 12 months" in Table 6 of Potential workers and Table 7 of Underemployed workers. There were no changes to the data, and the questions asked in the February 2023 survey were already updated to ask about engagement with Workforce Australia providers, not jobactive.

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6226.0* (and 6226.0.55.001 in 2014).

Prior to 2014, statistics were published in:

- [Labour Mobility \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6209.0&\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6209.0&)

[viewtitle=Labour%20Mobility,%20Australia~February%202013~Latest~21/08/2013&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6209.0&issue=February%202013&num=&view=&_](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6209.0&issue=February%202013&num=&view=&) (6209.0), 1972-2013.

- [Persons Not in the Labour Force](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6220.0&viewtitle=Persons%20Not%20in%20the%20Labour%20Force,%20Australia~September%202013~Latest~26/03/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6220.0&issue=September%202013&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6220.0&viewtitle=Persons%20Not%20in%20the%20Labour%20Force,%20Australia~September%202013~Latest~26/03/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6220.0&issue=September%202013&num=&view=&_) (6220.0), 1975-2013.
- [Job Search Experience](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6222.0&viewtitle=Job%20Search%20Experience,%20Australia~July%202013~Latest~05/02/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6222.0&issue=July%202013&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6222.0&viewtitle=Job%20Search%20Experience,%20Australia~July%202013~Latest~05/02/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6222.0&issue=July%202013&num=&view=&_) (6222.0), 1976-2013.
- [Underemployed workers](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6265.0&viewtitle=Underemployed%20Workers,%20Australia~September%202013~Latest~26/02/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6265.0&issue=September%202013&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6265.0&viewtitle=Underemployed%20Workers,%20Australia~September%202013~Latest~26/02/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6265.0&issue=September%202013&num=&view=&_) (6265.0), 1985-2013.
- [Labour Force Experience](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6206.0&viewtitle=Labour%20Force%20Experience,%20Australia~Feb%202011~Latest~31/08/2011&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6206.0&issue=Feb%202011&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6206.0&viewtitle=Labour%20Force%20Experience,%20Australia~Feb%202011~Latest~31/08/2011&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6206.0&issue=Feb%202011&num=&view=&_) (6206.0), 1968-2011.
- [Career Experience](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6254.0&viewtitle=Career%20Experience,%20Australia~Nov%202002~Latest~22/09/2003&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6254.0&issue=Nov%202002&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6254.0&viewtitle=Career%20Experience,%20Australia~Nov%202002~Latest~22/09/2003&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6254.0&issue=Nov%202002&num=&view=&_) (6254.0), 1993-2002.
- [Retrenchment and Redundancy](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6266.0&viewtitle=Retrenchment%20and%20Redundancy,%20Australia~Jul%202001~Latest~02/08/2002&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6266.0&issue=Jul%202001&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6266.0&viewtitle=Retrenchment%20and%20Redundancy,%20Australia~Jul%202001~Latest~02/08/2002&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6266.0&issue=Jul%202001&num=&view=&_) (6266.0), 1997-2001.
- [Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6245.0&viewtitle=Successful%20and%20Unsuccessful%20Job%20Search%20Experience,%20Australia~Jul%202000~Latest~06/06/2001&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6245.0&issue=Jul%202000&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6245.0&viewtitle=Successful%20and%20Unsuccessful%20Job%20Search%20Experience,%20Australia~Jul%202000~Latest~06/06/2001&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6245.0&issue=Jul%202000&num=&view=&_) (6245.0), 1982-2000.
- [Persons Who Had Re-entered The Labour Force](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6264.0&viewtitle=Persons%20Who%20Had%20Re-entered%20The%20Labour%20Force,%20Australia~Jul%201995~Latest~01/02/1996&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6264.0&issue=Jul%201995&num=&view=&_) (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6264.0&viewtitle=Persons%20Who%20Had%20Re-entered%20The%20Labour%20Force,%20Australia~Jul%201995~Latest~01/02/1996&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6264.0&issue=Jul%201995&num=&view=&_) (6264.0), 1985-1995.
- [Persons Who Have Left The Labour Force](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf>)

[/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6267.0&viewtitle=Persons%20Who%20Have%20Left%20The%20Labour%20Force,%20Australia~Sep%201994~Latest~02/04/1995&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6267.0&issue=Sep%201994&num=&view=&_](#) (6267.0), 1985-1994.

- [Labour Turnover \(https://archive.org/details/australian-statistics?and%5B%5D=subject%3A%22Labour+Turnover%22&sort=-date\)](https://archive.org/details/australian-statistics?and%5B%5D=subject%3A%22Labour+Turnover%22&sort=-date) (6210.0), 1949-1976.

* Note: Catalogue number 6226.0 was previously used for [School Leavers, 1970 to 1974: their Employment Status and Education Experience \(https://archive.org/details/62260-1975-05\)](#), May 1975.

Methodology

[Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia methodology, February 2023](#)